



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CARLOS ALVAREZ
MAYOR

May 2, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE (888) 284-8594

Honorable Senator Rudy Garcia
302 SOB
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Senate Bill 1306

Dear Senator Garcia:

I commend your efforts in sponsoring a bill (Senate Bill 1306) that would protect our public water supply by requiring rock miners in Miami-Dade County to pay for the costs of upgrading water treatment plants. However, I have reservations with the current version of the bill, adopted by the House of Representatives on April 27, 2006, that limits the contribution from rock miners for this purpose to \$112.5 million.

Numerous studies on the impact of rock-mining in the Northwest Wellfield in Miami-Dade County clearly support the need to implement proactive measures to minimize the risk of contamination to our water supply. As you know, this will not only require substantial capital investment and infrastructure, but long-term operation and maintenance costs as well. In addition, compliance with the latest applicable regulatory and environmental standards will require additional commitments in the future. Because the costs of constructing and maintaining such a large-scale project are difficult to accurately estimate at this early stage, it is imperative that your proposal provides for the flexibility to establish financial support for non-capital expenses. This is a **critical** component of your legislation, as taxpayers should not be burdened with the total cost of upgrades that otherwise would not have to occur at this time.

Again, I urge you to seriously consider amending your bill to remove the "cap" and require the industry to pay its "fair" share of mitigation costs. I thank you for your continued service to the residents of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor